

Appendix B: Management Recommendations

Resource	Management Recommendations
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The smoke data gathered from prescribed fire and wildfires over the past five years will become an important data set for the forest to use to illustrate the difference in impact between prescribed fire and wildfire in reference to smoke.
Cooperation & Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Systematically seek partners as part of the Forest Prioritization approach. Involve Regional Office programs to bring regional and national partnerships to the SNF.
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The FIDT should determine the circumstances in which the "where appropriate" statement in Activity Limit Code E listed on Table G-WS-8 (Forest Plan p. 2-16) does and does not apply. It is difficult to retain or return slash following prescribed burning on these ELT's. Furthermore, returning/retaining slash after every harvest increases fire risk near private property, recreation sites, or high use roads. See O-WS-10 (Forest Plan p. 2-12). * The FIDT should consider S-VG-4 and G-VG-2 (Forest Plan p. 2-26) and determine if it is acceptable to diverge from 60% canopy closure within patches 100 acres or greater. This standard precludes fuel treatments that may affect the red and white pine over story within stands below 60% canopy closure. Ramifications of this standard include: (1) it is contrary to historic disturbance patterns that were necessary to establish & maintain pine ecosystems, (2) may limit implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects in areas of heavy under story fuel accumulation, (3) may limit pine regeneration, and (4) may limit under story vegetative diversity.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure heritage mitigation measures are effective within heavily used recreation areas across the SNF (including the BWCAW). Heritage site monitoring over time indicates some heritage sites are being affected by recreation use, especially on campsites subject to extremely heavy visitor use.
Insects & Disease	None
Lands	None
Minerals & Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A framework for managing/administering federal hardrock minerals with the BLM would be beneficial to improve the permitting and administration process and to guide how the two agencies cooperatively work together. * The SNF should develop a policy on how NEPA applies to private reserved and outstanding mineral proposals.
Non Native Invasive Species (NNIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Visit sites treated in 2006 to determine need for re-treatment in 2007. Treat all known purple loosestrife sites on the SNF. Treat known Canada thistle infestations near Turtle Lake Fire, Cavity Lake Fire, and East Zone Complex fire.
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Interpret S-PH-1 language. Clarify what type of public health threat (address hazardous materials, drinking water, wastewater ect) the standard is intended to mitigate.
Socio-Economic	None
Soils	None

Resource	Management Recommendations
Timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Improve data collection and data management during NEPA project planning. Insufficient data collection and field reconnaissance during the NEPA analysis has resulted in actual treatment acreage 20-25% less than planned. (i.e. inaccurate crown closures, mistyped stands). * Improve the incorporation and implementation of design features and mitigation in vegetation project planning and implementation. Better incorporating design features and mitigation measures during project NEPA analysis will reduce overestimation of treatment acres. * Within lowland black spruce treatments re-evaluate regeneration success 7 or 8 years following treatment. Monitoring has shown that spruce regeneration within lowland black spruce stands are difficult to document because of small size and become more apparent 7 to 8 years following treatment. These supplemental surveys will allow managers to better assess the effectiveness of silvicultural prescriptions and harvest operations.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Recognize that if and when planned road decommissioning projects are implemented and if this current pace of road decommissioning continues, the projected Decade 1 decommissioned mileage will soon be achieved. Further road de-commissioning will exceed 2014 projections.
Tribal Rights & Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Forest Plan desired condition (D-TR-3) states that the SNF facilitates the exercise of the right to hunt, fish and gather as retained by Ojibwe whose homelands were subject to treaty in 1854 and 1866. The SNF is accomplishing consultation efforts with the bands, yet the opportunity exists for more proactive government-to-government interaction and collaboration to actively facilitate rights of band members for hunting, fishing and gathering.
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Intensify efforts to update forest inventory. This is essential to ensure effective and accurate vegetation planning and implementation. * Correct Forest Plan error in Table JPB-2 regarding age class groupings. Planning and implementation efforts have used the correct groupings in NEPA projects. However, the correction should be published for the Forest Plan through errata. * Clarify Lowland Conifer LE by addressing differences between the Forest Plan EIS LE map and the implementation layer LE map through an amendment or errata. Current Lowland Conifer LE (LLC-A-B and C) age objectives address lowland black spruce and tamarack, not white cedar and black ash. A possible resolution is to add sections similar to LLC for white cedar and black ash to provide a framework for monitoring general objectives in the Forest Plan that address these types.
Watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Update the upland young/upland open analysis for the entire SNF every three years. Existing information is 10-12 years old and should be revised to assist with required NEPA watershed/fish and aquatics analyses. The analysis will be updated in 2007 and beyond as new information becomes available. * Continue to consider that vegetation management NEPA decisions include proactive riparian management, particularly in the near-bank zones.
Wilderness	None
Wildlife, Sensitive Aquatic Species	None
Wildlife, Sensitive Plant Species.	None
Wildlife, MIH, Aquatic Species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A lake habitat monitoring protocol should be further developed for the Forest that includes lake habitat, fish population and water quality parameters.
Wildlife, MIH, Terrestrial Habitats	None